



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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SPOT COMMENTARY

25 January 1991
1900 EST

IRAQ-KUWAIT: SITUATION REPORT #606

SPECIAL SPOTCOM

IRAQ ANNOUNCES WITHDRAWAL

Baghdad Radio this evening reported that the Iraqi leadership issued orders to its armed forces to withdraw from Kuwait "in an organized manner to the positions held prior to 1 August 1990." The announcement claimed that Iraqi forces had proven their ability to fight and stand fast, and had performed their "jihad duty." The statement stressed that the Iraqis will fight during an organized and honorable withdrawal. Iraqi radio also indicated that Foreign Minister Aziz had asked the Soviet Union to exert efforts at the UN Security Council to achieve a formal ceasefire.

COMMENT: The announcement appears to be an effort to save the Iraqi army in Kuwait before it is destroyed. Saddam may use this announcement as an excuse to try to pull his forces back as quickly as possible. The statement makes no commitment to cease missile attacks on Saudi Arabia or Israel or to halt the destruction of Kuwait. Baghdad linked the statement to UN Resolution 660 but did not accept the other eleven UN resolutions enacted since August 1990. Other Iraqi statements earlier today also claimed their forces have fought well and called on Arabs throughout the region to join in the holy war against the coalition.

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Approved for Release
Date

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